

Joint Probe of La. 'Sinister Influences' Promise Given

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Governor, MCC in Baton Rouge Meeting

By C. M. HARGRODER

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

BATON ROUGE, La. — The pledge of a joint investigation of "sinister influences" which a national magazine alleges are exerted on Louisiana government came Wednesday from Gov. John J. McKeithen and the Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans.

Announcement of the joint effort followed a luncheon meeting at the executive mansion which broke up close to 4 p. m.

The meeting was originally called by the governor to introduce the staff of his new commission of labor-management inquiry, and to explore mutual cooperation between the commission and the MCC to probe criminal acts in labor matters.

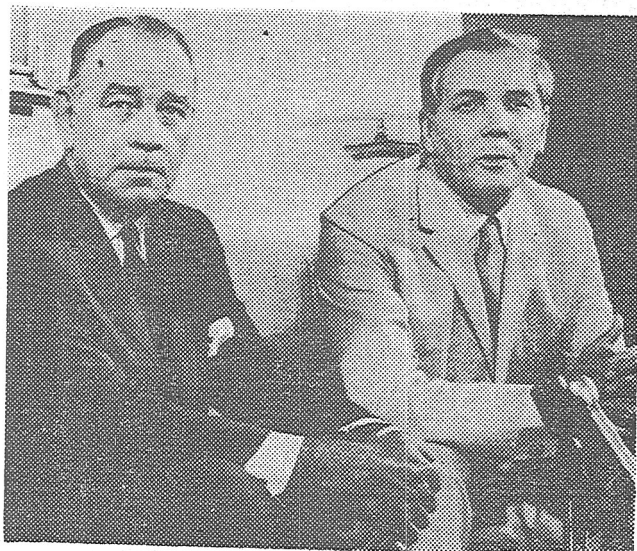
EVIDENCE PROMISED

It went beyond that, McKeithen confirmed, and the MCC agreed to furnish a memorandum to the governor containing specific evidence of criminal acts relating to allegations contained in a story in the current Life magazine. In turn, McKeithen promised to turn any evidence over to his new "intelligence division" for further investigation.

E. C. Upton, president of the MCC, declared after the meeting "this is the first time we've been able to reach the ear of a responsible official." MCC director Aaron Kohn added his board left "with a sense of reassurance we did not have when we came here. We're convinced (McKeithen) has a deep concern."

"Upon leaving the mansion," Upton added, "we feel that under Gov. McKeithen's leadership everything possible will be done to handle criminal conditions."

Kohn said much of the story in Life magazine was based on original information supplied by the MCC and further developed by the magazine's staff. The story alleged that



—AP WIREPHOTO.

MEETING with E. C. Upton, president of the New Orleans Metropolitan Crime Commission, in Baton Rouge Wednesday was Gov. John J. McKeithen. The governor announced he will launch an investigation into alleged organized crime in Louisiana after meeting MCC officials and his new Commission on Labor-Management Inquiry.

"sinister" influences have exerted pressures at every level of government, including lawmaking and enforcement. Specifically cited was Carlos Marcello, Jefferson Parish, object of numerous deportation efforts by the U.S. Justice Department.

But McKeithen said the investigation would be limited to state government, and not touch on local government. He said it would not involve Frank Langridge, Jefferson district attorney, or Jim Garrison, Orleans district attorney. He repeated at least four times he would not investigate Garrison, even if the

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Orleans Grand Jury Members Take Oath



HANDS RAISED, members of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury are sworn in during ceremonies Wednesday. The new jurors are (front row from left) Joseph O. Misshore Jr., James O. Sanders, foreman; Albert D. Flair, Stanley A.

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
Thoroun, Ronald F. Mason and Louis L. Brothers; (second row from left) Sylvan B. Pendley, Mrs. Delores V. Mason Smith, Robert P. Jolet, Laurence Martin, Walter O. Eckert Sr. and John R. Nides.

GRAND JURY CHARGES LAXITY

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to the city council, the report said.

The report said that of the 40, no licenses were revoked; 16 licenses were suspended; two were dismissed; 16 were continued with date; and no hearing date was set for six.

"It should be noted that the average suspension of the 16 was 2.69 days," the report said.

In addition, the report continued, 26 criminal court convictions were referred to the city attorney's office, which took no action on 16 and referred 10 to the city council.

Of the 10 no licenses were revoked, eight were suspended for an average of 2.13 days and two were continued without hearing date.

Violations included dispensing alcoholic beverages to juveniles, according to the report.

'POOR RECORD'

"It appears to this jury that this is indeed a very poor record for the number of violations encountered and the city attorney's office and the city council should make a great effort to enforce the laws governing these violations," the report continued.

The old jury's report said it had made three all-night visits to a cross section of places frequented by juveniles.

The jury recommended the identification cards because of "considerable traffic" in forging and falsifying of draft cards, birth certificates and other forms of identification, the report said. The jury recommended strong punishment for owners who fail to check the cards.

Publishing names of young offenders and those of their parents would "create an awareness on the part of the parents that they have not only a responsibility to their children but an even larger responsibility to the community."

The midnight curfew would

reduce exposure of law-abiding minors to the criminal element, and protect against spontaneous actions for excitement, such as break-ins and thefts."

JURY MEMBERS

Members of the new jury are Joseph O. Misshore Jr., 4418 Prentiss, employed by an insurance firm.

Sanders, 2822 Jefferson, an oil company foreman.

Albert D. Flair, 2538 Calhoun, who operates a janitorial supply firm and is a former professional baseball player.

Stanley A. Thouron, 2210 Jefferson, employed by an insurance firm.

Ronald F. Mason, 1808 Cleveland, a post office employee.

Louis L. Brothers, 910 Crystal, of the Brothers Electric Co.

Sylvan B. Pendley, 5627 Bancroft dr., of the Pendley Oxygen Co.

Mrs. Smith, of 342 Milaudon, a housewife.

Robert P. Jolet, 710 Poland, of the Artistic Iron Works.

Laurence Martin, 1439 N. Prieur, a retired postman.

Walter O. Eckert Sr., 5859 Vicksburg, of the Walter Eckert Bindery.

John R. Nides, 3208 Bienville, of the Fleming Asphalt Co.